

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 EC BRU 09749 122054Z

62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 RSC-01 OES-05 /054 W

----- 044110

R 121806Z DEC 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7975

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 9749

PASS TO H. H. BROWN, DR; A.S. FRIEDMAN, DIP; H. C. KOUTS, RSR;
L. M. MUNTZING, DR; T. A. NEMZEK, RRD; G. MERCER, RRD; AND
E.E. KINTNER, RRD

FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT ACTION AEC GERMANTOWN DECEMBER 11 REPEATED
FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : TECH

SUBJECT: PLUTONIUM AVAILABILITY -EUROPE

1. THERE IS CURRENTLY SPECULATION AS TO WHETHER THERE WILL BE
SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES OF PLUTONIUM IN EUROPE FOR LMFBR DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERING THE UNCERTAINTIES IN EUROPEAN FUEL REPROCESSING CAPA-
BILITIES, ESPECIALLY DURING THE PERIOD 1976-1980. BRUSSELS AEC
HAS INFORMALLY OBTAINED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

2. GERMANY - THE SNR-300 FIRST CORE REQUIRES ABOUT ONE TON OF
PLUTONIUM THICH WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE THREE PARTNERS IN THE PROJECT
AS FOLLOWS: GERMANY-70 PERCENT; BELGIUM-20 PERCENT; NETHERLANDS-
TEN PERCENT. FIRM COMMITMENTS TO SUPPLY THESE QUANTITIES ARE AVAILABLE

FROM PREVIOUS REPROCESSING CONTRACTS. HOWEVER, FIRM COMMITMENTS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 EC BRU 09749 122054Z

CANNOT BE OBTAINED FOR THE PERIOD AFTER JULY 1977, AND NECESSARY

SUPPLIES WILL ONLY BECOME AVAILABLE IF THE LA HAGUE OR WINDSCALE REPROCESSING PLANTS BECOME OPERATIONAL BY EARLY 1976 AS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED. THE FIRST SNR-300 RELOAD IS SCHEDULED FOR THE PERIOD 1978-79 WITH FUEL FABRICATION TO BEGIN ABOUT TWO YEARS EARLIER. THUS, WHILE SUFFICIENT PLUTONIUM IS AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE A FULL INITIAL CORE LOADING OF MIXED OXIDE FUEL, RELOAD SUPPLIES ARE NOT ASSURED. IN AN ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE THE SHORTFALL, OFFERS ARE BEING MADE TO BUY AVAILABLE PLUTONIUM FROM FOREIGN UTILITIES.

3. FRANCE - THE SHORT RANGE NEEDS OF THE PHENIX CAN BE SATISFIED AND THE PARTIAL URANIUM OXIDE-MIXED OXIDE FIRST CORE WILL BE REPLACED BY A FULL MIXED OXIDE CORE. THE MAJOR CONCERN IN FRANCE IS AVAILABILITY OF PLUTONIUM FOR THE SUPER PHENIX REACTOR WHICH IS ANTICIPATED TO START UP NEAR THE END OF THE DECADE. AVAILABILITY OF A FULL CORE LOADING CLEARLY DEPENDS UPON TIMELY OPERATION OF EUROPEAN REPROCESSING PLANTS. HOWEVER, IN THE EVENT THAT THESE PLANTS CANNOT SUPPLY THE NECESSARY PLUTONIUM, THE FRENCH HAVE A COMMITMENT FROM THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ABOUT ONE AND ONE-HALF TONS FOR THE CREYS-MALVILLE PLANT FROM THEIR STOCKPILE. ALTHOUGH THIS COMMITMENT WILL EFFECT THE EXTENT OF THE ITALIAN LWR PLUTONIUM RECYCLE PROGRAM, IT ASSURES AT LEAST A PARTIAL MIXED-OXIDE CORE LOADING FOR THE SUPER PHENIX.

4. UNITED KINGDOM-ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF PLUTONIUM EXIST IN THE U.K., AS A RESULT OF GAS REACTOR PRODUCTION COMBINED WITH PAST OPERATION OF THE WINDSCALE REPROCESSING PLANT (THAT IS UNTIL THE SEPTEMBER 1973 SHUTDOWN). IT IS ESTIMATED THAT AS MUCH AS FOUR TONS OF PLUTONIUM ARE PRESENTLY AVAILABLE AND THAT 10-12 TONS WILL BE OBTAINED BY 1980 IF REPROCESSING FACILITIES BECOME OPERATIONAL. THUS, A SHORTAGE OF PLUTONIUM WILL NOT OCCUR, ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE ARE NO PLANS TO RECYCLE PLUTONIUM IN EXISTING THERMAL REACTORS.

5. EUROPE-IF A REPROCESSING CAPABILITY OF OVER 500 TONS/YEAR IS ACHIEVED AS SCHEDULED IN 1976-78 PERIOD, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 20 TONS OF FISSILE PLUTONIUM WILL BECOME AVAILABLE FOR USE IN LMFBR'S BY 1980. AT LEAST A SIMILAR QUANTITY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PLUTONIUM RECYCLE.

UNQUOTE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 EC BRU 09749 122054Z

GREENWALD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PLUTONIUM, MINING INDUSTRY, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ECBRU09749
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740361-0910
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741241/aaaabiti.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by colstocv>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PLUTONIUM AVAILABILITY -EUROPE
TAGS: TECH, XT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005